



**MINISTER
OF MUNICIPAL RELATIONS**

Room 317
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

APR 18 2019

His Worship Brian Bowman
Mayor
City of Winnipeg
510 Main Street
Winnipeg MB R3B 1B9

Dear Mayor Bowman:

We can't be the Most Improved Province without Winnipeg being our Most Improved City. As a province, we have worked hard to return our expenditures to sustainable levels. As there is just one set of tax payers, it is incumbent on us to collaborate to address performance and outcomes for the public good.

Investments in construction and land development are key drivers of Manitoba's economy and delays in the permitting and inspection processes are stifling economic growth. In particular, industry stakeholders have voiced concerns over the efficiency, timeliness and accountability of building permitting, inspections and approvals. These concerns are not limited to the City of Winnipeg processes and staff accountability, but have also been raised in relation to the timeframes involved in obtaining approvals from other authorities such as rural municipalities, planning districts, Manitoba Hydro and the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

We will be undertaking an independent review of how construction and development is approved, permitted and inspected in our province. Examining the City of Winnipeg's Planning, Property and Development Department's processes will be one of the first steps in this review, as the recent developments have highlighted significant concerns by stakeholders. I know that we both place a high priority on enabling economic growth, and the need to promote integrity in public service. I believe this exercise will not only result in improved, timely service, promoting economic development across the province, but will also result in significant efficiencies and value for taxpayers.

Our experience over the past three years in bending the cost curve has gained us valuable lessons from experts, public servants and Manitobans. An independent Fiscal Performance Review has guided much of our efforts to enhance efficiency and effectiveness and deliver results to Manitobans. In the course of our work, we have addressed many challenges and developed a number of innovative solutions as we repair our public services. These experiences may prove valuable to the City, and I would be pleased to facilitate presentations and discussion on lessons learned.

Our offer to the City of Winnipeg is as follows:

1. Make available to the City all of the expert advice we have received during our search for savings across the summary provincial government.
2. Work in partnership with the City to conduct a broader fiscal performance review of their operations to identify cost saving measures.

Winnipeggers and Manitobans have an expectation that their governments will work together to get the job done. I welcome discussion and partnership to move forward in the interest of tax payers and sustainability. I have asked my Deputy Minister to follow up with your Chief Administrative Officer to discuss next steps.

Sincerely



Honourable Jeff Wharton
Minister

- c. Honourable Blaine Pedersen, Minister of Growth, Enterprise and Trade
Honourable Colleen Mayer, Minister of Crown Services
All City Councillors